The Homegoing Celebration of a Saint

Pastor Emeal Willis

Sunrise:
September 11, 1923

Sunset:
December 16, 1996

"...Be thou faithful unto death,
and I will give thee a crown of life."
Revelation 2:10

Homegoing Celebration:

Friday, December 27, 1996 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Grace Temple Memorial Church of God in Christ
1970 Clarke Street ~ East Palo Alto, California

Officiating:

~ Pastor J.W. Macklin ~
1st Administrative Assistant,
California Northwest State Jurisdiction

"The Joy of the Lord is My Strength"

Pastor Emeal Willis

Sunrise:
September 11, 1923

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Obituary

Pastor Emeal Willis was born September 11, 1923, the only child to the union of Albert and Nancy Willis in Alexandria, Louisiana. Pastor Willis had several older half-brothers and sisters who preceded him in death.

Pastor Emeal Willis was educated in the public school system in De Quincy and Woodworth, Louisiana. He enlisted in the United States Army, May 24, 1941. His first training was at Fort Ord, California. When he would go on leave he would visit San Francisco and Berkeley and said *"One day, I want to raise a family here"*. He served four and a half years in the Army. During this time he was sent overseas where he served in the CBI as a heavy equipment operator. He drove over the hazardous Burma Road, for which he received a citation and medal for delivering supplies to surrounded British forces who were surrounded by the Japanese. He also received medals for Sharp Shooter, Overseas Combat, Good Conduct, W.W.II Action, American and National medals and other honors. He was honorably discharged from the Army on November 26, 1945.

In 1946 in Chicago, while listening to the radio, he came across the broadcast of All Nations Pentecostal Church. He was touched by the singing. He told his brother Danny (deceased), he wanted to meet the singer, Floriene. He met Floriene and they were married on August 26, 1946. To this union, eleven children were born.

In 1954, he was saved and refilled with Holy Ghost. Months later he was called to the Ministry and ordained at Little Bethel Church in Chicago, Illinois. In 1958 he was appointed Pastor after the pastor became ill. The church name was changed to Pioneer Pentecostal Church.

In 1962, the family moved to California with eight children. They fellowshipped with Little Flock Church of God in Christ after their arrival. They also fellowshipped with the late Bishop Broussard.

In 1964 a final decision was made to unite with the late Elder V.J. Robinson at the Grace Temple Church of God in Christ. Pastor Willis remained faithful and served as Assistant Pastor until 1973 when he was wrestling with returning back to pastoring his own church. In 1993 Pastor Willis and his congregation moved from Stewart Chapel AME in Redwood City to First Christian Church in San Mateo. As the year passed, Pastor Willis continued his whole-hearted commitment to do the work of the Lord. Due to the failing health of Pastor Willis, the congregation moved their services to their home. During this period, Pastor Willis continued to be dedicated and faithful to his flock, passing the torch to his son, Minister Gregori Willis.

On December 13th, Pastor Willis was taken to the hospital by his daughter Val. His condition deteriorated overnight, while his family and friends held a five-day vigil. During Pastor Willis' last hour, he was surrounded by not only his immediate family, but also his church family. His last request was for his children to continue his work in the ministry. His last hours were spent prayerfully and thanking God for his many blessings. He said to his family "*Is everybody here? Is everything ready? Let's pray, now I'm ready to go!*" After praying his last prayer, his final words spoken were "*There's The Valley*", and with those words, Pastor Willis went on home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Willis leaves to rejoice in his homegoing, Mother Floriene Willis; Eleven sons and daughters: Tereecia Doniene Franklin of Hayward, CA; Donnard Emeal Willis of San Mateo, CA; Gregori Albert Willis of East Palo Alto, CA; Laurian Audry Scott of Redwood Shores, CA; Valeicia Nancyne Briggs of Stockton, CA; Annetta Louis Tesfamicaael of Hayward, CA; Joycelyn Vivian Stillian of San Mateo, CA; Darryl Renauld of Emeryville, CA; Ameeris Eileen and Kimberly Ann Cherise of Van Nuys, CA, and Carlton LaMarr Willis of San Francisco, CA. His grandchildren: Robert M. Simpson, D'Andre Robinson, Landrian Scott, Nakia Tesfamicael, Alana Willis, Kiplen Scott, T'Nia Briggs, Donnie Willis, Derek Willis, LaTisha Briggs, Gavin Willis, Tamal Briggs, Airis Evans Willis, Kameron Frugoli, Raiel Ross Willis, Cymone Willis, Christopher Agbanussi, and Alexis Willis. His great-grandchildren, Khadijah Simpson and Khyrie Palacios. Two sons-in-law: Michael Scott and Chuck Stillian; one daughter-in-law, Romoye Willis; one sister-in-law, Vivienne Vaughn of Chicago, IL; Three brothers-in-law: Wardell and Irvin of Chicago, IL, and Romance Watson of Philadelphia, PA. A host of nieces including Eula Bea Jenkins of Shreveport, LA, and a host of nephews and other relatives and friends. Especially the closest friend, Sylvester Wethington (Bubbs), Nelson, Farsh, Julian, Abdul and LynRay, who he treated as his own sons, who fondly called him "Pops".

OFFICIAL HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

Friday, December 27, 1996 ~ 11:00 a.m.

~ Pastor Emeal Willis ~

Processional ..... *Bishop, Admin. Asst., Executive Board, Superintendents, Pastors, Elders, Ministers, Pallbearers, The Family*

Master of Ceremonies ..... *Pastor J.W. Macklin*
1st Administrative Assistant, CANW Jurisdiction

Musical Selection ..... *Area Choir*

Invocation ..... *Dr. L.W. Keeton*

Reading of the Holy Scriptures
Old Testament ..... *Pastor W. Relierford*
New Testament ..... *Pastor M. Carr*

Musical Selection ..... *Romance Watson, Philadelphia, PA*

Special Remarks ..... Local Representative: *Evang. Hortence Johnson*
Pastor, Universal Church of God, Robbins, IL

District Representative: *Missionary J. Relierford*
District Missionary, New Horizon District

State Representative: *Admin. Asst. J.A. Jennings*

Musical Selection ..... *Area Choir*

Special Remarks ..... *Mother Louise Perrodin*
CANW Jurisdictional Supervisor of Women

Acknowledgment of Condolences ..... *Missionary I. Taylor*

Resolutions and Tributes ..... Local: *Gregori Willis*
District: *Missionary L.A. Jones*

Musical Selection.....*Evangelist Vernon O. Price*

State Resolution..... *Dr. E.J . O'Neal*
Executive Secretary

Reading of the Obituary .....*Pastor R.L. Cowan*

The Sermonic Rendition ..... *Sister Laurian Scott*

EULOGY 🕮..... **Bishop W.W. Hamilton**
Jurisdictional Prelate ~ CANW State Jurisdiction

Parting View..... *Jones Mortuary Staff*

Recessional.....*Clergy/Family*

Interment:
Olivet Memorial Park
Colma, California

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:

Jones Mortuary, Incorporated
660 Donohoe Street ~ East Palo Alto, California 94303 ~ 415.323.2481
Mr. Charles Jones, Funeral Director

We have known and loved him
As a part of our home
Through the years he guided us
And never let us roam.
We cherish his protection
And treat it like pure gold.
All that he's done for us
He has never gone untold.
The times when we most needed him,
Are the times when he was there,
We treasure his love for us,
To which no other can compare.
"Oh, how we love you, Dad"
We wish to tell you this.
"And when you leave us Dad
You often will be missed."

"THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Psalms 23:1-6

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Amazing Grace

Verse I:

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound---
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

Verse II:

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Verse III:

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Verse IV:

Through many danger, toils and snares,
I have already come;
T'is grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Verse V:

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Then when we first begun.

Active Pallbearers:

Farsh Fallah
Mark Rankin
Julian Campbell
Eric Godfrey
Abdul Green
LenRay McCallister

Honorary Pallbearers:

Donnard Willis
Gregori Willis
Darryl Willis
Carlton Willis
D'Andre Robinson
Chuck Stillian
Michael Scott
Robert Simpson

McKee
264 27? Julian 295 7241

Acknowledgment

The members and family of the Pioneer Pentecostal Church of God in Christ wish to thank each and everyone of you for your many thoughtful words of comfort, your cards, your prayers and kindness during our hour of bereavement. We shall ever be grateful.

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